



EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Original

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

May 30, 2003

To: *02-277*

600 Documents

To: Chairman & Commissioners

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

From: jandcgiesler
To: Mike Powell, Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, KM KJMWEB, Commissioner Adelstein
Date: Thu, May 15, 2003 9:05 PM
Subject: boadcasting

Please, pease, do not take local programing away and just give us the programming that comes from large national companies.

"It's not an accident that increasingly sexually oriented programming comes from large national companies that don't have to face their listeners every day on Main Street.

You will ruin broadcasting if you do this and take programing out of the hands of the local communities.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,
Caro Giesler

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MAY 30 2003

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

From: vbailey23@comcast.net
To: Michael Copps
Date: Thu, May 15, 2003 9:13 PM
Subject: From a concerned citizen

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Commissioner Michael J. Copps:

MAY 30 2003

Veronica Bailey
284 Grant Avenue
Jersey City, NJ, 07305

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

I am writing to you today to comment on Docket No. 02-277, The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules. In its goals to promote competition, diversity and localism in today's media market, I strongly believe that the FCC should retain all of the current media ownership rules now in question. These rules serve the public interest by limiting the market power of already huge companies in the broadcast industry.

I do not believe that the studies commissioned by the FCC accurately demonstrate the negative affects media deregulation and consolidation have had on media diversity. While there may be indeed be more sources of media than ever before, the spectrum of views presented have become more limited.

The right to carry on informed debate and discussion of current events is part of the founding philosophy of our nation. Our forefathers believed that democracy was best served by a diverse marketplace of ideas. If the FCC allows our media outlets to merge, our ability to have open, informed discussion with a wide variety of viewpoints will be compromised.

With the serious impact these rule changes will have on our democracy, it is incumbent on the Commission to take the time to review these issues more thoroughly and allow the American people to have a meaningful say in the process.

Thank you,

Veronica Bailey

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From: TSims97447@aol.com
To: Michael Copps
Date: Thu, May 15, 2003 9:57 PM
Subject: Local Broadcasting

MAY 30 2003

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Dear Sir,

Please do not make any changes that would compromise individual community sensitivities to programing.
We NEED local broadcast control.

There are so many programs my family cannot listen to or view now. This would only make it worse.

Sincerely,
Gail Sims

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MAY 30 2003

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

From: Selina Sweet
To: Michael Copps
Date: Thu, May 15, 2003 11:00 PM
Subject: Copy of my letter to Mr. Powell

Dear Mr. Powell,

I am appalled, saddened, and frightened by your recent decision not to gather more input for the upcoming possibility of changing limits on the ownership of communication media.

This act represents to me another governmental step in the service of consolidating power and money in fewer hands at the cost of a muscular democracy.

Democracy depends upon an "informed" populace.

Doesn't it strike you as interesting - that NONE of the major networks did ANY IN DEPTH REPORTING on this upcoming decision?

Allowing a further consolidation of media outlets locally in fewer hands isn't going to decrease such omissions of information. Information will flow to the degree it does not jeopardize the bottom line.

You are not a servant of democracy Mr. Powell. You do not serve "equal opportunity." You're a squire of ignorance. You may have "position", but you do not have a "democratic soul."

Sincerely,

Selina Sweet
PO Box 17371
Seattle, WA 98107

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

From: Leland Hosford
To: Mike Powell, Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, KM KJMWEB, Commissioner
Adelstein
Date: Thu, May 15, 2003 11:54 PM
Subject: Comment on proposed changes in broadcast law

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Dear FCC Commissioners,

MAY 30 2003

I just wanted to express my opinion about the *proposed changes* in rules related to radio and TV station ownership. I am opposed to changes that would allow large multinational corporations to *increase their ownership* and control over local broadcasting. We have one of the best systems of broadcasting in the world and that is in large part because of local control. In my opinion, these proposed changes would destroy it and should not be enacted.

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Leland Hosford
3716 Fir Tree Dr NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402-1808

From: Richard Terrill
To: Michael Copps
Date: Fri, May 16, 2003 1:50 AM
Subject: Broadcast Monopolies

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MAY 30 2003

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Sir - please do not relax the media ownership restrictions that protect citizens from media monopolies. Our citizens deserve access to multiple viewpoints, something that will not transpire with a reduction in choices.

Richard Terrill
Citizen, Patriot
Saratoga, California
95070-0220

Do you Yahoo!?
The New Yahoo! Search - Faster. Easier. Bingo.
<http://search.yahoo.com>

From: TheStinkTest@aol.com
To: Commissioner Adelstein, Michael Copps
Date: Fri, May 16, 2003 4:48 AM
Subject: STOP Michale Powell

STOP Michale Powell and his Goons. McCarthyism failed in the 50's because Right Wingers didn't own the media. This is an attempt to control all that we see and hear by those who desire a New McCarthy Type Era. Then look at the TV Anchors & Jouranlists all around... fewer owners mean less recourse to seek work elsewhere when one disagree's with management. Blackballing will become a far greater potential of being exercised. Why do you think Conservative Media likes this overhaul? This is nothing less than trying to legitimize Predatory Business Practices. Advertisers too have flexed their advertising dollar influence by pulling ads from programing that doesn't suit their political ideology dictating what we see and hear to a degree already. Then though in the absence of the "Fairness Doctrine" and sheesh.... we get Big Borthor, old style USSR Pravada in 31 flavors.

<< WASHINGTON (AP) FCC Chairman Michael Powell rejected a request from two of his commissioners to delay a decision on overhauling rules governing ownership of newspapers and TV and radio stations.>>

From: Avenezia8@aol.com
To: Michael Copps
Date: Fri, May 16, 2003 9:30 AM
Subject: Re: Do the right thing!

Some how I don't think your e-mail reply is sincere. The proof of your intentions will be evident in your vote, either for the preservation of the media diversity or against. Remember like the President you work for the people of the United States of America, not for yourself!

From: McBride, Francis
To: Mike Powell, Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, KM KJMWEB, Commissioner Adelstein
Date: Fri, May 16, 2003 10:54 AM
Subject: regulations

Dear Commissioners,
I think approving the new media concentration rules would be going in the wrong direction as the disquieting news stories about Clear Channel amply illustrate. Please vote against these proposed new regulations. Thank you.
Francis McBride
85 Olean St.
Angelica, NY 14709

From: Donald L Brees
To: Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, KM KJMWEB, Commissioner Adelstein
Date: Fri, May 16, 2003 11:00 AM
Subject: Proposed Changes in Broadcast Law

I oppose the proposed changes allowing a single company to own access to 90 percent of America. I fear it would interfere with sensitivities to *local community* standards in what is broadcast. I do not want our local stations to become carbon copies of network programming and lose the unique touches that make local broadcast programming reflect the community in which it originates.

Sincerely,
Gayle Brees
1023 Brookfield Road
Rockford, IL 61107

From: Carter Crawford - TPC
To: Michael Copps
Date: Fri, May 16, 2003 11:22 AM
Subject: To.fccownership.doc

To: Michael Copps, Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission
Cc: Senator Ted Stevens
From: Carter Crawford, 107 Maple Drive, Fairbanks Ak. 99709. tpc-ccrawford@gci.com

RE: Cross Ownership of newspapers and broadcast 5/16/03

I have resisted writing you my thoughts simply because I have questioned whether a single individual consumer would have any impact. From what I have read, all the comments on both sides have come from large groups, and yet certain of you have strived to get grass roots input. But no public community hearings could be held in Alaska, so that opportunity has *not been available*.

However the articles in, and arrogance of, our local paper have inspired me.

I will try to keep my comments objective, but they are based on what we see in a small market. My hope and request is that you do not make one blanket policy for all markets, and that in smaller markets, perhaps 150 or even 175+ you look at the individual circumstances.

Your goal is more localism, diversity of voices, and a free enterprise system which encourages competition, including new minority voices. I fail to see how any of the consolidation in broadcasting has achieved that. *And certainly merging two very diverse news cultures like print and broadcast will create new problems with turf wars and quality.* To date, in this small market we have experienced consolidation in radio. It has created two entities which control 90% of the stations, increased rates, and decreased local programming and news staff in one case.

This is television market 203. It has one daily newspaper, 3 full-time and one lower broadcast network station (CBS), one strong public station and a non-rated, non-profit religious station.

Since my return to Fairbanks three years ago *I have seen clear evidence of the paper operating as if they already owned the tv station on which they have an option.* They have said repeatedly you will give them permission to buy. In this case the tv station is by far the largest and most successful station in Fairbanks; commanding an estimated half of the broadcast tv market billing. Policies and procedures implemented by the paper have hindered attempts by the competing tv stations to grow. *HOW?*

Refusal to do any copromotions with anyone but the tv station intended for purchase

Biased coverage of events, favoring those by "their" tv station and ignoring or minimizing those by the rest.

Refusal to even discuss in print the upcoming FCC changes regarding cross ownership until this week. Suddenly articles started appearing, hinting that the FCC was finally going to allow the local paper to buy the lead tv station. This of course has prevented the public from making comment because the majority did not know this was coming. Now it is almost too late.

Increasing the branding of "their" tv station by giving free space to the tv weather person on page 2 every day, and a sports column to the TV Sports Director on page 1 of the Sports Section. I do not know if this more than once weekly.

Using the newspaper reporters who write for the paper's midnight deadline to cover events for the station's 11pm and morning news updates. But it has only succeeded in angering the reporters who felt their hard work was now not new news in the am. Despite any efforts of collaboration, there is no improvement in content and delivery on either product. *In fact both entities were serving our communities with more and*

better quality local news when they were locally owned. Corporate America is only concerned with eyeballs and profits and that has nothing to do with localism and quality.

While the broadcast facility says there will be no decrease in staff with the merger, the paper says otherwise. And to merge two very different cultures into one cooperative news staff will be very difficult. This is a small market where a pool of talent does not exist. Already the tv station struggles to find reporters. Some newspaper reporters have already threatened to quit if the merger takes place and they have to write for tv. This is not Seattle or Portland etc where the company can simply tell the staff accept it or leave. This market has the same television news challenges as other small markets in convincing television news talent to come, or stay if locally educated, and then not leave after a year with their new video portfolio.

Perhaps most important is the position in which it is already putting the competing stations. The paper has a monopoly and with the purchase of the leading tv station it will make it even more difficult for the rest of the stations to compete. No doubt they will have joint packages, which could make the paper's rates far more attractive than another broadcast station. When the biggest events in town are owned by the two, when the paper can continually provide free coverage and branding for the station and the station can provide the same for the paper, the value of the competing stations is tremendously diminished. This is not healthy competition.

According to local paper's owner, studies show that where cross ownership exists in grand fathered markets no damage has occurred. I find that difficult to believe, especially after his comments implying that the tv station in Fairbanks will add coverage his paper lacks in the outlying markets. THAT IS ABSOLUTELY UNTRUE. The only station that can provide coverage of the rural markets is the station owned by Smith Broadcasting. The lead tv station in Fairbanks only has coverage in the Borough and via translators in Delta. They do not reach Nome etc.

Free enterprise in Fairbanks will come to an end in broadcasting if the FCC passes one rule applying to all size markets. I urge you to revisit the new regulations for small markets and develop a system, which allows for the individual situations such as market 203; where if a new monopoly is created, there is irrefutable harm to quality, competition and diversity of opinions.

From: Diane Morey
To: Michael Copps
Date: Fri, May 16, 2003 11:31 AM
Subject: Local control

Let the sun shine over proposed media concentration rules. Local communities should have local control over broadcast media.

From: Michael Hesson
To: Michael Copps, Commissioner Adelstein
Date: Fri, May 16, 2003 11:33 AM
Subject: I support you, Commissioners Copps & Adelstein!

Dear Commissioners Adelstein and Copps:

I write to let you know that I have been following the current debate over media concentration in the FCC with great interest. I have great respect for your attempts to make those deliberations public and to allow enough time for the public to react. I am saddened that Chairman Powell did not grant your request.

For my part, I believe that any relaxation of the current rules regarding media ownership are NOT in my best interest. Nor do I believe that permitting *larger media conglomerations to form* are in the best interest of the American public. I believe, as Chairman Powell said in his press release, that "Media ownership rules are intended to protect and advance the cherished values of diversity, localism and competition." A handful of companies, controlling what I read, hear, and watch, is neither competitive nor diverse. On June 2nd, please don't let these new media concentration rules pass!

Sincerely,

Michael

--

Michael Hesson
4211 Baltimore Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19104
215.386.0157

From: Jwayzata@aol.com
To: mn03@mail.house.gov, opinion@coleman.senate.gov
Date: Fri, May 16, 2003 12:54 PM
Subject: FCC Ruling

Gentlemen:

I hope you agree with me that the FCC's purpose is to administer the public airwaves, protecting the public FROM corporate monopolies. I'm absolutely furious!

I am incensed that this latest FCC proposal by Michael Powell to allow even MORE consolidation was even raised! Not to mention whipping it through without public knowledge - but for the two responsible FCC commissioners, Michael Copps and Johnathan Adelstein. Our radio stations and TV channels are offering garbage and mediocre pap supplied by media conglomerates ONLY interested in the bottom line, and guided by their marketing departments. (Thank god for PBS and NPR because there is very little else worth listening to now.) Here in the Twin Cities we have certainly lost good local stations since 1996, and probably before then. And along with that we are smothered with ads and commercials - sometimes a stultifying 10 in a row. UNACCEPTABLE. WE SHOULD BE ROLLING BACK TO THE 1975 LAW not exacerbating the situation.

PLEASE do something about this disgusting state of affairs. Yet another black eye for the Republican Party.

Jean DuBois, Wayzata, MN

CC: Mike Powell, Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, KM KJMWEB, jadelstein@fcc.gov

From: mark justice hinton
To: Mike Powell, Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, KM KJMWEB, Commissioner Adelstein
Date: Fri, May 16, 2003 1:05 PM
Subject: public comment -- do not ignore

I join millions of Americans who oppose deregulation that results in few companies controlling more outlets. Some regulation is vital to keep diversity alive.

mjh

Mark Justice Hinton
PC Training & Consulting
www.mjhinton.com

From: Shaw
To: Michael Copps
Date: Fri, May 16, 2003 2:15 PM
Subject: Don't ease broadcast restrictions

Dear Mr. Copp:

I strongly oppose easing restrictions on companies owning a newspaper and a broadcasting station in the same city. I also oppose raising the cap on how much of the market a single company can reach with its TV stations.

Sincerely,
Nancy E. Shaw
Ann Arbor, MI

From: RandyTVVO@aol.com
To: Mike Powell
Date: Fri, May 16, 2003 2:16 PM
Subject: Please read before June 2nd

Dear Mr. Powell,

I will not bore you with a plea to reconsider your plan to relax the rules concerning media ownership. From your actions and words it seems apparent to me that you have no true interest in entertaining any discussion of the merits of such a rule change.

Instead, let me simply suggest that by your failure to entertain meaningful public discussion, your out-of-hand dismissal of comments by legislators, and your breaking precedent in not allowing a member of the commission a 30 day delay on a pending vote have all served to starkly diminish any illusion of democratic due process.

It would be far less disturbing to the members of the American public who are paying attention for you to at least give the appearance of thoughtful consideration of the issue. Even if "the fix is in" and the outcome predetermined in the finest tradition of back room politics, it would be far more palatable if, in decades to come, we could find a way to believe that the Michael Powell legacy of monopolistic broadcasting was the result of reasonable thought, and not some self-serving abuse of the public's trust. Your father would never perform so gracelessly.

Randy West

CC: Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, KM KJMWEB, Commissioner Adelstein, Campaignlaw

From: Earl Mundt
To: Michael Copps
Date: Fri, May 16, 2003 2:20 PM
Subject: Broadcast Stations

Dear Mr Powell

This country is founded on individual ownership of
ferms including the media. If you relax the rules and
let just a small number people own all the stations
we will only hear one side of an issue. Please appose
relaxing the rules.

Sincerely,

Earl Mundt

Do you Yahoo!?
The New Yahoo! Search - Faster. Easier. Bingo.
<http://search.yahoo.com>

From: Mason Gaffney
To: Michael Copps
Date: Fri, May 16, 2003 2:25 PM
Subject: Silver lining?

Now that M. Powell and allies have won their secondary market, the silver lining is that the true value of spectrum will be measured in the market. The aggregate value of what the FCC has given away, and is yet to give away, can be measured - and PUBLICIZED (provided there are any publicity channels left untainted). When the public realizes the enormity of what the barons have made off with, there may be a demand for restitution.

Next step is to provide for an annual rental to be imposed, proportional to the market values. The federal government, as landlord, can impose such a rental without its being called a "tax".

Here are two sources on the likely effects of free markets, to help counter the misapplied arguments of those claiming that deregulation is using the market mechanism properly.

1. Stephen Cheung, generally considered an extreme free-market economist, wrote articles and a book on leasing. He pointed out that private landlords often restrict the amount of land that any one tenant can lease on shares, to prevent their hogging and underusing the land. The "Cheung thesis" caught on quickly, and is now standard doctrine among free market preachers, i.e. most academic economists today.

Being an apologist for private landlords, Cheung does not explicitly apply this reasoning to public landlords - but the same logic obtains.

2. Henry George, *Progress and Poverty*, 1879, pp. 123 ff., opposes what the English then called "free trade in land," because it would tend to concentration. Since then, the number of farms in the U.S.A. has dropped from 6 million to less than 1 million, even as the total population grew.

The history of Western Union in the 19th Century is instructive. It established a media monopoly that controlled the flow of news, including news about itself. Slowly, people found ways around it. So there is hope. Please keep trying!
Mason Gaffney

From: BHam101@aol.com
To: RandyTVVO@aol.com, Mike Powell
Date: Fri, May 16, 2003 2:34 PM
Subject: Re: Please read before June 2nd

Mr Powell

Mr Randy West sent me his Email and it now compels me to sent you and the other FCC memebbers this note!

Yes I really realize by your moves that "The Fix IS IN". Your now set for life with Clear Channel or Infinity to be on the board of directors of these companies after you leave the FCC. The *ONLY* problem is where else in government can you go after you totally ignor the American public. Yes we are trying to stop the BIG GUYS owning all, controlling all free speech and killing any chance for a small group to enter broadcasting either in TV or Radio.

The last Clear Channel deal with them completely owning total media in a town is just foolish! Who did not watch the store?

The FCC can not even get bills passed. Your record for getting pirate broadcasters out of business is a joke. You have stations so technically illegal that you have NO people to do inspections! What gives? Is anyone paying attention to the people?

Just my two cents.

I really am sorry that you are SO blind to ignor the American Public!

Shame on you!

Robert Hamilton

CC: Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, KM KJMWEB, Commissioner Adelstein, Campaignlaw

From: Deni Albrecht
To: Michael Copps
Date: Fri, May 16, 2003 4:01 PM
Subject: FCC ruling

Deni Albrecht
177 Valley View Drive
Auburn, CA 95603

May 16, 2003

Commissioner Michael Copps
445 12th Street SW
Washington, 20554

Commissioner Copps:

I am writing to remind the members of the Federal Communications Commission that you are responsible for ensuring that the media "serve the public interest." I am concerned that if the FCC continues to relax regulations on media ownership, the victor will be big business--and the casualties will be the people of the U.S.

The free flow of information, the benefits of local competition and the power of a diverse marketplace will virtually disappear.

As a supporter of women's rights, I am concerned that the current media merger free-for-all threatens to rob us all of the independent voices, views and ideas that nourish a pluralistic, democratic society.

The media are more than just a business; they bring information to people that affects their lives. We cannot have a healthy democracy, and women cannot pursue equal rights, if we are uninformed on the issues. The media have a responsibility to serve the public interest and ensure that all voices are heard. It is your job to promote this.

Please remember U.S. consumers and citizens when you review the remaining regulations. These regulations must be kept in place, and strengthened, not weakened. The media giants already control far too much of our precious information resources.

Sincerely,

Deni Larimore Albrecht

From: Teri Dillion
To: Michael Copps
Date: Fri, May 16, 2003 4:02 PM
Subject: Please save American democracy!

Teri Dillion
30 Ridgecrest #2
Flagstaff, AZ 86001

May 16, 2003

Commissioner Michael Copps
445 12th Street SW
Washington, 20554

Commissioner Copps:

I am writing to remind the members of the Federal Communications Commission that you are responsible for ensuring that the media "serve the public interest." I am concerned that if the FCC continues to relax regulations on media ownership, the victor will be big business--and the casualties will be the people of the U.S.

The free flow of information, the benefits of local competition and the power of a diverse marketplace will virtually disappear.

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The media are more than just a business; they bring information to people that affects their lives. We cannot have a healthy democracy, and women cannot pursue equal rights, if we are uninformed on the issues. The media have a responsibility to serve the public interest and ensure that all voices are heard. It is your job to promote this.

Please remember U.S. consumers and citizens when you review the remaining regulations. These regulations must be kept in place, and strengthened, not weakened. The media giants already control far too much of our precious information resources.

Sincerely,

Teri Dillion

From: Johnwcard@aol.com
To: Mike Powell, Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, KM KJMWEB, Commissioner Adelstein
Date: Fri, May 16, 2003 5:49 PM
Subject: FCC Responsibilities

As I understand it, the FCC's charge is to serve the public interest. It certainly cannot be in the public's interest to allow anymore concentration of media ownership. Please vote to strengthen, not weaken those provisions that limit the number of medial outlets that a single company can own.

Democracy is not served when one company owns 90% of the radio stations in country. People cannot vote intelligently if most of their information comes from one or two sources.

Please resist the pressure that will surely be put on you by corporate representatives and vote to decrease media centralization, not increase.

Thank you,

John W. Card

From: Scott George
To: Michael Copps
Date: Fri, May 16, 2003 6:12 PM
Subject: NO CHANGE

M. Copps,

This taxpayer does not support nor want the proposed changes to the
Broadcast Ownership Rules!

Sincerely,

Scott George
Taxpayer

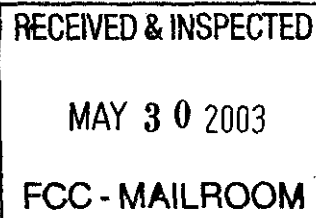
From: SAM BALSANO
To: Michael Copps
Date: Fri, May 16, 2003 6:17 PM
Subject: PLEASE

Please do not change broadcast ownership rule. WOULD BE VASTLY UNFAIR to the independents voices and give major media a unjust advantage. Thankyou, Sam/Adele balsano, Gamaliel, AR.

From: Eisenbach, Roy A
To: Michael Copps
Date: Fri, May 16, 2003 6:23 PM
Subject: Freedom Of Speech

On June 2nd, the FCC will take its final vote on whether or not to change current "Broadcast Ownership Rules," and allow giant media conglomerates to grab an even bigger share of television and radio stations across our nation. This in effect will allow a few to censor the majority. Please do not let this happen, since it is a direct affront to freedom of speech.

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED



Jonathan S. Adelstein
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street S.W.
Washington D. C. 20554

02-277

Dear Commissioner Adelstein:

I am extremely concerned about the effect that corporate ownership has on the news media. Since so few companies control both print and electronic means of communication (books, magazines, newspapers and radio, television), our democratic right to balanced and unbiased information, not distorted or omitted, is in jeopardy. The FCC proposal for June 2, 2003 further relaxes ownership regulations, threatening to further erode credible journalism. This monopoly of a few conglomerates undermines our democracy by denying our constitutional guarantee of freedom of the press. I urge you to rethink your positions and vote NO on this ruling.

Sincerely,

Norma D. Capece

Norma D. Capece
900 East Kingsbury Street
Springfield Missouri 65807-2031

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